



NEWS

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

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FCC RELEASES NEW TELEPHONE SUBSCRIBERSHIP REPORT

Washington, D.C. – The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) today released its latest report on telephone subscribership levels in the United States. The report presents subscribership statistics based on the Current Population Survey (CPS) conducted by the Census Bureau in March 2002. Statistics from that survey estimated that 95.5% of all households in the United States had telephone service. This is the highest penetration level ever reported. The report also shows subscribership levels by state, income level, race, age, household size, and employment status.

Statistical Summary

In March 2002:

- The telephone subscribership penetration rate in the U.S. was 95.5%, up 0.9% from 94.6% in March 2001. This increase is statistically significant.
- The telephone penetration rate was 81.0% for households with annual incomes below \$5,000, while the rate for households with incomes between \$60,000 and \$74,999 was 99.4%.
- By state, the penetration rates ranged from a low of 90.7% in Mississippi to a high of 98.0% in Maine and Vermont.
- Households headed by whites had a penetration rate of 96.3%, while those headed by blacks had a rate of 90.8% and those headed by Hispanics had a rate of 91.8%.
- By age, penetration rates ranged from 89.8% for households headed by a person under 25 to 97.8% for households headed by a person between 65 and 69.
- Households with one person had a penetration rate of 93.0%, compared to a rate of 96.7% for households with four or five persons.
- The penetration rate for unemployed adults was 92.2%, while the rate for employed adults was 96.8%.

This report is updated three times a year and is available in the FCC's Reference Information Center, Courtyard Level, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554. Call Qualex International at (202) 863-2893 to purchase a copy. This report can also be downloaded from the FCC-State Link Internet site at < <http://www.fcc.gov/wcb/iatd/stats.html> >.

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